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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 1 MARCH 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the text of a letter dated 1 March 1996 from His Excellency Mr. Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, addressed to you concerning the recent developments in Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. A. G. Ravan FARHADI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Identical letters dated 1 March 1996 from the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I should like to draw your attention to the present alarming situation, brought about by the foreign interventions in war-stricken Afghanistan, which if not halted could have pernicious consequences for peace and stability in the region and cause further human tragedies afflicting the innocent civilian inhabitants of the capital city, Kabul.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan in recent months has consecutively brought to the attention of the Security Council the root causes of the continuous war in the country. The intervention of Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan has been and still is one of the main causes of the armed conflicts. The true nature of the so-called Taliban has been revealed on different occasions to the Security Council by the Islamic State of Afghanistan. This notorious group has been mobilized, trained, armed and equipped by Pakistan. In my statement before the General Assembly on the occasion of the debate on agenda items 20 (b) and 54, on 19 December 1995, 1/ I amply elaborated the extent of the intervention by the Pakistani Government and its military intelligence services in Afghanistan.

As part of its peaceful endeavours and as a sign of sincere respect for the expectations of the international community to resolve the conflict in Afghanistan through intra-Afghan dialogue, the Islamic State of Afghanistan has taken initiatives to pave the way for national rapprochement, as required by the General Assembly in its resolutions 50/88 A and B of 19 December 1995. The President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, has declared his readiness to transfer power to a credible mechanism acceptable to all concerned Afghan parties. Recently President Rabbani declared his readiness to pay a personal visit to the headquarters of the opposition, to achieve peace and stability in the country.

As a result of these efforts, a remarkable outcome, involving at least three opposition parties, has been achieved. The preliminary accords address the questions of a cease-fire, the exchange of prisoners-of-war, the opening of the roadways and the continuation of the dialogue.

With a view to undermining the intra-Afghan dialogue, the interventionist Pakistani circles have once again attempted to sabotage the peace process. In February 1996, Islamabad hosted a gathering of some Afghan opposition groups. Reliable reports indicate that, while providing considerable amounts of financial and military assistance and support, the Pakistanis have enabled some groups to undertake major planned ground and air attacks against the capital in the near future.

Mindful of the fact that the Security Council has a primary responsibility to prevent such a situation, and based upon the aforementioned facts, I look to you to urgently bring these developments to the earnest attention of the members

of the Security Council. Our hope is to avoid a further escalation of war in our country. We expect the Security Council to call upon Pakistan to refrain from pursuing this heinous plot and make sincere efforts for peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan is strongly committed to defending its national sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity as well as the security and safety of the innocent people of Kabul, which is under imminent threat of a Pakistan-instigated and organized onslaught.

The armed forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan would once again prove their capability in defense of a united, free and independent Afghanistan.

(Signed) Abdul Rahim GHAFOORZAI
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

Notes

1/ See A/50/PV.95.